

NOTES FOR WORKING WITH THE U. S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Altitude Restriction for Radio Communication

Normal maximum altitude for use of Marine Band by Minnesota Wing is **1000 ft AGL**.

(This can be increased to 3000 ft AGL if transmit power is reduced to 1 Watt or if necessary to enable communications.)

USCG Auxiliary Frequencies and Procedures

Make initial contact on the “Marine Band Calling Channel,” marine channel 16.

- This is programmed in MNWG CAP VHF radios as **Channel 29**.

As soon as two-way contact is established, parties shift by mutual agreement to the “Operational Working Channel”, marine channel 83.

- This is programmed in MNWG CAP VHF radios as **Channel 31**.

If communications are lost or broken, return to marine 16 to re-establish.

The normal procedure for initiating communications will be to first contact a fixed station, like “Station Prescott”, and ask them what auxiliary facilities [boats] on patrol can be or should be contacted.

Note: These are not exclusive-use frequencies. Marine 16 can also be used to reach other parties. For example, US Army Corps of Engineers lockmasters can be reached on that channel.

Example Marine Band Radio Callsigns

Note: CAP aircraft will use their natural CAPFLIGHT callsigns.

“Coast Guard Auxiliary Station Prescott”	fixed base in Prescott, WI
“US Coast Guard Auxiliary 1 6 9”	specific CGA facility [boat] with a unique three digit ID
“US Coast Guard Auxiliary Patrol Facility”	blind call to any CGA boat – use only as a last resort if unable to determine any other initial point of contact

Describing Navigation Information

The CGA is accustomed to describing locations in terms of river mile numbers. If they do so when communicating with us, request latitude and longitude from them instead. They should be able to convert for you. If not, contact the CAP mission base. The IC may be able to do the conversion for you.

Confirming Visual Contact (options for use without radio)

Vessels:

- The vessel crew waves an orange Personal Flotation Device
- The vessel crew uses a signal mirror
- The vessel makes a defined, confirming maneuver such as a turn to the left or right

Aircraft:

- The aircraft “waggles” its wings
- The aircraft performs a turn to the left or other agreed upon maneuver

Working Vocabulary

Bow-rider	Runabout with an seats in an open bow
Cigarette Boat	Brand name of a narrow, fast powerboat; also used as a generic term for similar boats
Coxswain	Facility [boat] crew commander (analogous to a CAP mission pilot or ground team leader)
Cruiser	Luxury boat with an interior cabin including a galley, head, plumbing, berths, and other essentials for living aboard; generally not made for speed
Deck boat	Boat with a single-level deck and often rails or short walls all around
Facility	Boat [esp. a Coast Guard or Coast Guard Aux. boat operating “under orders”]
Flotilla	Coast Guard Aux. local organizational unit (analogous to a CAP squadron)
PFD	Personal Floation Device (a.k.a. life preserver)
Runabout	Powerboat smaller than 25 feet with a small deck and an outboard engine